

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 8, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PRITCHARD, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 1890.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1890) granting a pension to Mary Martin, have examined the same, and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

The claimant was married to the soldier in 1853 and has never since been married. The soldier was mustered into the service August 2, 1862, and served with his command until September 10, 1863, when he was captured at Bealton. He was held a prisoner until November 20, 1864; was then paroled and sent to Camp Parole, Annapolis. On December 4, 1864, he received a furlough for thirty days and returned home to visit his wife and children, who lived at Troy, N. Y. A few days before the expiration of his furlough he left his home to return to Camp Parole. He did not reach there, and since that time he has not been seen nor heard from by the claimant or by any member of his family, although diligent inquiry was made to ascertain his fate.

The claimant was left with three small children, whom she brought up by her own unaided efforts. She is now nearly 70 years of age, in bad health, lame and decrepit, unable to work, without means, and in want of the necessaries of life. She has twice applied for a pension—once under the general law and once under the act of June 27, 1890. Her claim under the general law was rejected for want of evidence showing her husband's death. Her claim under the new law was rejected on the ground that the soldier did not receive an honorable discharge.

Your committee think the circumstances raise a presumption that the soldier was prevented by some accident or foul play from rejoining his command, and that his death must likewise be presumed.

They recommend that the bill pass.

